

UNIVERSITY MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Medicine and Life Sciences



Epidemiology II
2022 - 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION

Academic course: 2022-2023

Subject name: Epidemiology II

Kind of subject: Compulsory

Number of credits: 3 ECTS (75 hours of dedication)

Coordination: Olatz Garin

Language of teaching: Spanish

TEACHERS

Olatz Garin: MPH, PhD. Associated Researcher at the Health Services Research Group, IMIM (Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute), and Associate Professor of the CEXS-UPF.

ogarin@imim.es

Miquel Porta: MD, PhD. Professor of Preventive Medicine & Public Health (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, UAB); and Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at Gillings School of Global Public Health (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). Head of the Clinical & Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer Unit, IMIM (Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute)

mporta@imim.es

Montse Ferrer: MD, PhD, Senior researcher at the Health Services Research Group, IMIM (Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute), and Associate Professor of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

mferrer@imim.es

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Natalia Soldevila-Domenech, MPH. Researcher at the Integrative Pharmacology and Systems Neuroscience Research Group, IMIM (Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute).

nsoldevila@imim.es

Claudio Parolo: Biotechnol. PhD. Senior scientist at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)

claudio.parolo@isglobal.org

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this course is to consolidate, explore in greater depth and complement the basics acquired in the course "Epidemiology I". It is also to enable the student to correctly interpret studies published in the literature and interpret basic epidemiological analysis. The syllabus will explore a selection of designs (based on elementary designs).

AIMS

To be able to:

- study the frequency and distribution of diseases within human populations and environments
- determine if any factor is associated with the health effect
- compare groups of people who are alike except for the risk factor under evaluation

SKILLS

GENERAL

• Instrumental skills:

- Basic understanding of the design of epidemiological studies.
- Basic understanding of the analysis and interpretation of epidemiological research in public health.
- Ability to solve problems and compare and contrast epidemiological hypotheses.

• Personal skills:

- Ability to work a team.
- Ability to collate results, write their description and interpretation and orally defend.
- Communication skills.

• Methodological skills:

- Promote the ability to design studies following straightforward procedures.
- Promote the ability to analyse data from the epidemiological perspective as well as using statistical criteria.
- Encourage critical reading of epidemiological literature.
- Encourage self motivation in work.

SPECIFIC

- Design of cross-sectional studies; assuring external validity.
- Design of longitudinal studies. Design of case-control studies; choosing the control group.
- Ability to analyse case-control and longitudinal studies.
- Working in teams to solve practical exercises.

METHODOLOGY

The work schedule combines **theory sessions** and seminars. Seminars can be individual or in group of 5 or 6 students (up to 8 groups).

EVALUATION

Continuous evaluation will be performed along the seminars, corrections, group presentations and final exam.

What is to be evaluated?

The understanding of the problem, the application of adequate methods, the correct interpretation of results, the writing up of the work and the level of communicative ability demonstrated therein. Also, the active participation in group work discussion and class. These are the items that will be evaluated.

Each of the seminars will count 10% or 5% of the total grade (see calendar table), with a total of 60%. The group presentations on study's designs will count 25%, and the final exam 15%. However, it is necessary to pass the exam (5 or above).

CALENDAR

January		
12/01/23	15:00 – 17:00	T. Session 1: Introduction and Cross-sectional studies Seminar 1: Exercise Basic Epidemiology (individual 19/01) _ 10%
	17:30 – 19:30	T. Session 2: Confounding definition, detection and control Seminar 2: Exercise on confounding (individual 19/01) _ 10%
19/01/23	15:00 – 17:30	Revision of Seminars 1 and 2 T. Session 3: Cohort studies
	17:30 – 19:30	Seminar 3: Discussion on real longitudinal study (group 29/01) _ 10% T. Session 4: Evaluation of interaction Seminar 4: Exercise on interaction (individual 26/01) _ 5%
26/01/23	15:00 – 19:30	Revision of Seminar 4 T. Session 5: Case-control studies Seminar 5: Case-control.....?¿?¿ (individual/group 02/02) _ 10%
February		
02/02/23	15:00 – 17:00	T. Session 6: Clinical Trials Seminar 6: Clinical trials (individual 09/02) _ 5%
	17:30 – 19:30	Revision of or Doubts on Seminar 5 T. Session and Seminar 7: Standardization (individual TODAY) _ 10%
09/02/23	15:00 – 19:30	Group presentations on Study's designs_25%
16/02/23	11:30 – 13:30	T. Session and Seminar 8: Diagnostic Tests' accuracy
(To be determined)		Final Test _ 15%

RECOMMENDED READINGS BY SESSION

<p>Cross-sectional studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Szklo & Nieto. Epidemiology: Beyond de Basics. Jones And Bartlett Publishers, 2006. Chapter 1: Basic study designs in analytical epidemiology - Rothman KJ, Greenland S. Modern epidemiology. 2nd edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1998. Chapter 5: Types of epidemiological studies.
<p>Confounding: definition and control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Szklo & Nieto. Chapter 5: Identifying non-causal associations: confounding - Szklo & Nieto. Chapter 7: Stratification and adjustment: multivariate analysis in epidemiology - Rothman KJ, Greenland S. Accuracy considerations in study design. In: Rothman KJ - Rothman KJ, Greenland S. Modern epidemiology. 2nd edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1998; pp. 135-145 - Datta M. You cannot exclude the explanation you have not considered. Lancet 1993; 342: 345-7 - Schlesselman JJ, Stolley PD. Casecontrol studies. Design, conduct, analysis. New York: Oxford University Press, 1982: 171-193
<p>Cohort studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rothman and Greenland: Chapter 6, pages 79-92. <p>Other readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clayton D, Hills M. Statistical methods in epidemiology. Oxford: Oxford Sciences Publications, 1993:227-233; 298-305
<p>Evaluation of interaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Szklo & Nieto. Chapter 6: Defining and assessing heterogeneity of effects: interaction. - Schlesselman JJ, Stolley PD. Casecontrol studies. Design, conduct, analysis. New York: Oxford University Press, 1982: 171-193: 63-68 - Pearce N. Analytical implications of epidemiological concepts of interaction. Int J Epidemiol 1989; 18: 976-980

<p>Case-control studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Szklo & Nieto. Chapter 1: pages 28-51 - Rothman and Greenland: Chapter 7, pages 93-114. <p>Other readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosmer DW, Lemeshow S. Applied logistic regression. New York: John Wiley & sons, 1989; 1-36 - Slechelman JJ. Case-control studies. Design, conduct, analysis. Oxford University Press 1982; 124-134; 227-280
<p>Discussion on clinical trials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rothman KJ, Greenland S. Modern epidemiology. 2nd edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1998. Chapter on Clinical Trials. - Akobeng AK. Assessing the Validity of Clinical Trials. Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition. 2008 47:277–282.
<p>Measures to assess test results</p>	<p>ReadingS</p>